

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

### **I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS**

Claims 1, 3-7, and 9-13 are currently pending. Claims 1, 7, and 13 are independent. Claims 1, 7, and 13 are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed.

Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

### **II. OBJECTIONS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

The title of the application is amended herein to overcome the objection to the specification. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection to the specification.

### **III. OBJECTIONS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1 was objected to because of informalities.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to overcome the objection.

#### IV. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 3-7, and 9-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,977,676 to Sato et al. (hereinafter, merely “Sato”).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 is representative and has been amended to recite, *inter alia*:

“a third image display portion for storing in a storage unit image data, derived from different positions from said first camera unit over all image-taking directions in a maximum movement range thereof, with position information associated with each set of said image data derived from different positions from said first camera unit over all image-taking directions in a maximum movement range thereof, said third image display portion displaying either compressed images of said image data derived from the first camera unit over all image-taking directions in a maximum movement range thereof having been compressed from said first camera unit or compressed images of said image data derived from the first camera unit over all image-taking directions in a maximum movement range thereof read from said storage unit and then being compressed, at a position based on associated position information, with the position information of a respective set of said image data sets derived from the first camera unit over all image-taking directions in a maximum movement range thereof being assembled therein”

Referring to FIGS. 4 and 8 of the present application, there is a third image display portion 101. The third image display portion displays a maximum movement range image. A movement range image is an image indicating the maximum range over which the first camera unit is capable of taking images, and consists of multiple frames. Accordingly, the movement range image is a panorama-like image as shown in FIG. 4. The maximum value for the pan angle and the maximum value for the tilt angle is generated from the multiple frames taken in this maximum movement range. Positional information attached to the multiple frames making up the movement range image are assembled into the movement range image display portion 101. Publ. App. par. [0061].

That is, the present application has been amended to clarify that a third display portion is provided that displays a maximum movement range image displayed in the movement range image display portion taken by moving the camera unit over the widest range capable and photographing in increments of frames. Publ. App. par. [0097].

The positional information of the camera unit attached to each of the frames, and the coordinates within the movement range image display portion 101 are correlated beforehand, so all frames within the movement range can be positioned at the correlated coordinates based on the positional information of the camera unit and grouped into an image range set, thereby generating a movement range image. With the example shown in FIG. 8, a movement range image having a wide range of a pan direction of 180 degrees and a tilt direction of 90 degrees is generated, and displayed on the movement range image display portion 101. Publ. App. pars. [0097]-[0100] and FIGS. 4 and 8.

The Office Action, at page 5, points to Sato, col. 5, lines 10-18 and col. 6, lines 1-9 for the above-recited element of claim 1. However, the cited location refers only to displaying compressed and encoded images. While Sato may describe displaying compress and encoded images there is no description of a third display portion is provided that displays a maximum movement range image displayed in the movement range image display portion taken by moving the camera unit over the widest range capable and photographing in increments of frames.

Applicants assert claim 1, as amended, overcomes the Sato reference. Thus, claim 1 is believed patentable over Sato,

For reasons similar or somewhat similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 7 and 13 are also believed to be patentable.

## **V. DEPENDENT CLAIMS**

The other claims are dependent from one of the claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

## **CONCLUSION**

Claims 1, 3-7, and 9-13 are in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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